

#### A PERIOD OF ARMED TRUCE

of the Tiflis and Baku branches. The subjection of the north-Iranian agents to the authority of Teheran was not without definite purpose: the G.P.U. wanted to intensify its activity in Iran and desired to combat more effectively the national movements of the Dashnaks and Mussavatists as well as to keep an eye on the Kurds. The Dashnaks were members of the Armenian party Dashnaksutjun, which in 1918 had been instrumental in proclaiming the free Armenian Republic and which in the course of the Republic's stormy two-year history had dominated its politics. As followers of evolutionary socialism, the Dashnaks were a special target of Communist hatred; they were regarded by Moscow as dangerous Mensheviks. TYTien Armenia was overrun by the Red Army in 1920, many Dashnak leaders escaped abroad and conducted intense activity to restore freedom to their country. Concretely the Dashnaks worked for a revolt in Armenia against the Soviet regime. Spying on their activities or splitting their unity became, therefore, one of the principal tasks of the G.P.U. in Iran. As Tabriz was one of the most important Dashnak centers, the G.P.U. paid special attention to that city. The same could be said of the nationalist Mussavat party, which had represented Social Democracy in the free Republic of Azerbaijan. Its leaders in exile grouped themselves in Constantinople and were very active in promoting the unity of all peoples of the Caucasus suffering under the Soviet rule. They also had a representative in Tabriz. This nationalist movement of the Caucasian peoples was commonly known as Prometheism, and there were reasons to believe that several foreign countries, in anticipation of an ultimate clash

between the West  
and Soviet Russia, assisted the movement morally  
and financially.  
Thus the French government continued to recognize  
the diplomatic  
missions of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan in  
Paris for a few  
years. After the conquest of Transcaucasia by the  
Red Army, the  
British, with their traditional interest in the  
Caucasus and Baku  
oil fields, were also interested in Prometheism, and  
not infrequently  
officers attached to the office of the British  
military attache at  
Teheran were of Caucasian descent. Poland also  
manifested interest  
in Caucasian nationalism, as was testified by  
numerous articles in  
Polish orientalist magazines and by the friendly  
hospitality extended  
to Caucasian refugees, some of whom were even given  
commissions